

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T BONN 07052

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AND PM DIRECTOR GELB ONLY
FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR, US
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG

1. AS YOU KNOW, IT IS NOW PLANNED THAT BREZHNEV WILL BE VISITING THE FRG MAY 4-7, APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND GROMYKO IN MOSCOW.
2. THE TONE THAT THE GERMANS WILL WISH TO GIVE TO THE VISIT WILL BE INFLUENCED CONSIDERABLY BY THEIR ESTIMATE OF THE CONDITION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE SOVIET UNION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE BECAUSE OF CURRENT HEIGHTENED FOCUS ON US-GERMAN DIFFERENCES (WITH POTENTIAL SPECULATION THAT AN APPARENTLY CLOSER SOVIET-FRG RELATION RESULTS FROM WASHINGTON-BONN DIFFERENCES). BY THE SAME TOKEN IT IS IN OUR INTEREST THAT GERMAN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD MOVE IN GENERAL TANDEM WITH OURS.
3. I RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT BE
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MADE TO BRIEF THE FRG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH GROMYKO. SUCH A BRIEFING SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE FOCUSED TO SOME EXTENT ON THE DETAILS OF WHATEVER SALT TOPICS MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. I THINK IT WOULD ALSO USEFULLY FOCUS ON THE GENERAL SENSE OF OUR DETENTE RELATIONSHIP AS A RESULT OF THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS.

4. I DO NOT THINK THE VENUE IS MATERIAL, BUT URGENCY SHOULD BE. IDEALLY, A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY MIGHT STOP HERE ON THE RETURN TRIP FROM MOSCOW. IF THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO BRIEF THE FRG HERE ON THE BASIS OF ANYTHING THAT YOU MIGHT WISH TO SEND US. OTHERWISE, IT COULD BE DONE IN WASHINGTON OR TO THE FRG EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. IT NEED NOT, AND SHOULD NOT, SUPERSEDE THE BRIEFING WE MIGHT ANYWAY PRESENT TO THE NAC. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT USEFULLY BE FOCUSED MORE ON THE BROADER ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IN ORDER TO GIVE SCHMIDT AN IDEA ON HOW BEST TO FOCUS HIS OWN REMARKS AND ATTITUDES.
STOESSEL

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